

DISPATCH		CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]/SECRET	PROCESSING ACTION
TO	CHIEF, EUR CHIEF OF STATION, GERMANY		MARKED FOR INDEXING
INFO.			NO INDEXING REQUIRED
FROM	CHIEF, MUNICH LIAISON BASE		ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
SUBJECT	[REDACTED]/CATIDE ALIAS DEGENHARDT/ COMMENTS ON SECRETARY MCNAMARA'S AIR LIFT REMARKS		MICROFILM
ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES			
ACTION - HQS AND GERMANY DECISIONS AS TO USE OF FOLLOWING INFORMATION EITHER AT HOME OR WITH EMBASSY			
REF - CSHB-F-1-1 CHAPTER 1, PARA 12			
<p>1. AS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION \subset \supset RECEIVED FROM ALIAS DEGENHARDT ON 10 AUG 66 MAY BE CONSIDERED TYPE WHICH FALLS UNDER REF PARAGRAPH CONCERNING INFORMATION CRITICAL OF A U.S. OFFICIAL, WE ARE FORWARDING IT IN OVERALL DISPATCH FORM, RETAINING, HOWEVER, THE REPORT FORM AS BELOW, IN CASE SOME DISSEM USE CAN BE MADE OF IT. SOURCE DESCRIPTION HAS BEEN TAILORED TO THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND CONTEXT OF DELZNHARDT'S REMARKS. DEGENHARDT CHANGED THE SUBJECT OF WHAT WE HAD BEEN HAVING SO ABRUPTLY AND WITH SUCH LITTLE FINESSE, IT WAS CLEAR TO ME THAT HE WISHED TO GRASP OPPORTUNITY OF MY VISIT TO CONVEY HIS MESSAGE TO US. VISIT, HOWEVER, WAS AT MY INSTANCE. HE DID NOT COME TO US.</p> <p>2. REPORT IS AS FOLLOWS -</p> <p>COUNTRY - WEST GERMANY/UNITED STATES SUBJECT - SECRETARY MCNAMARA'S "AIR LIFT" REMARKS DOI - EARLY AUGUST 1966 ACQ - GERMANY, MUNICH /10 AUGUST 1966/ REPORT NO - EGO-153 SOURCE - A POLICY-MAKING OFFICER OF THE GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE /BND/, WHO HAS MINISTERIAL-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON PRACTICALLY A WEEKLY BASIS. HIS COMMENTS ARE DOUBTLESS BASED ON CONVERSATIONS HE HAS HAD WITH GENERAL REINHARD GEHLEN, HEAD OF THE GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, AND OTHER SENIOR BND COLLEAGUES, AS WELL AS HIGH-RANKING FIGURES IN THE GOVERNMENT IN BONN. HE TALKS FREELY WITH AMERICANS WITH WHOM HE HAS PROFESSIONAL CONTACT AND DOUBTLESS INTENDED HIS REMARKS TO REACH OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.</p> <p>DIST - BY TAPE /CONT/ C/EUR COS/G</p> <p>DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCES METH 4006 EXEMPTION 3828 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2005</p> <p>UTILITY 201</p> <p>GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification</p>			
CROSS REFERENCE TO	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER	DATE	
	EGMA 68986	10 AUGUST 66	
	CLASSIFICATION	HQS FILE NUMBER	
	[REDACTED]/SECRET	32W-2-39/5	

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EGMA-68986 PAGE TWO

1. SECRETARY McNAMARA'S COMMENT ABOUT AMERICA'S ABILITY TO AIR LIFT TROOPS TO EUROPE TO MEET THE THREAT OF ATTACK IS BEING RECEIVED BY HIGH GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH GREAT SKEPTICISM. THE STATEMENT HAS ALREADY TENDED TO DEVALUE IN ADVANCE REMARKS THE SECRETARY MAY MAKE IN THE FUTURE. THIS IS THE VIEW OF A HIGH GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OFFICER WHO SAID ON 10 AUGUST HE WAS REFLECTING NOT ONLY THE ATTITUDE IN THE SENIOR CIRCLES OF HIS OWN ORGANIZATION, BUT ALSO THE STANDPOINT OF HIS CONTACTS IN BONN.

2. THE INTELLIGENCE EXECUTIVE COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS - "THE THING THAT IS CONCERNING US THESE DAYS--AND BY 'US' I MEAN THE VERY SENIOR PEOPLE IN BONN, AS WELL AS OUR OWN INTELLIGENCE PEOPLE--IS SECRETARY McNAMARA. HE RECENTLY SAID THAT IF THERE WERE ANY THREAT OF A SURPRISE ATTACK FROM THE EAST AGAINST GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE 14 DAYS WARNING OF THIS AND BECAUSE OF THE AMERICAN ARMY'S AIR LIFT CAPABILITY, A COUPLE OF DIVISIONS COULD BE FLOWN OVER TO EUROPE IN TIME TO SAVE THE SITUATION.

3. "FRANKLY, THIS HAS UNLEASHED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF SKEPTICISM IN GERMAN GOVT CIRCLES. ONE HEARS SUCH REMARKS AS - IF THE UNITED STATES BECOMES MORE DEEPLY COMMITTED IN VIETNAM THAN IT IS NOW, WILL THERE BE ENOUGH AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE TO MAKE SUCH A LIFT? WILL THERE BE SKILLED PILOTS ENOUGH AVAILABLE? FURTHER, THE COMMENT IS HEARD THAT THE SOVIETS CAN VERY WELL SAY, 'IF YOU DON'T STOP BOMBING HANOI, WE'LL SNATCH BERLIN.' AT THIS POINT, TWO AMERICAN DIVISIONS ARE FLOWN TO EUROPE. NOTHING HAPPENS. THE SOVIETS GO QUIET DOWN. THE DIVISIONS ARE SHIPPED OUT AGAIN. AND THEN THE SOVIETS MAKE THEIR MOVE. IN SHORT, THE GERMAN OFFICIALS SIMPLY DON'T BELIEVE THE AIR LIFT THESIS.

4. "THAT IS NOT TO SAY, THAT THIS IS ANY REFLECTION ON SECRETARY McNAMARA'S GOOD WILL OR HONORABLE INTENTIONS OR READINESS TO DEFEND US. THE AIR LIFT COMMENT WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT DESIGNED FOR AMERICAN PUBLIC CONSUMPTION--IT WAS DESIGNED FOR THE GERMANS. BUT PSYCHOLOGICALLY, IT WAS THE WRONG WAY, SEEN FROM THE GERMAN POINT OF VIEW, OF HANDLING THE SITUATION. IT WILL BE READILY ADMITTED THAT IN THE PAST EVERY TIME CORPORAL JONES OF THE AMERICAN ARMY IN GERMANY WENT ON FURLOUGH, SOME GERMAN OFFICIAL WOULD CRY OUT THAT AMERICA WAS LEAVING GERMANY IN THE LURCH. THIS MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN THE REASON FOR SECRETARY McNAMARA TO MAKE THE SUPPOSEDLY REASSURING AIR LIFT STATEMENT. BUT IT SIMPLY ISN'T BELIEVED AND THE BAD THING ABOUT IT ALL IS THAT THE FUTURE COMMENTS OF THIS HIGHLY QUALIFIED PUBLIC SERVANT ARE BEING UNDERMINED IN ADVANCE BECAUSE OF THE DISBELIEF IN THE AIR LIFT 'REASSURANCE.'

5. "THERE ARE ENOUGH DOWN-TO-EARTH, TRUSTFUL, AND BELIEVING OFFICIALS IN THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO WHOM ONE CAN SAY 'NOW LOOK HERE, FRIENDS, WE ARE HAVING A TOUGH TIME IN VIETNAM. WE NEED 75,000 TROOPS, AND WE PROPOSE TO REMOVE THEM FROM GERMANY NOW. WHEN WE ARE OVER THE HUMP--BECAUSE A SEMI-MOBILIZATION AT HOME TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER WOULD UPSET THE WORLD'S SITUATION EVEN MORE--WE'LL RETURN THESE CHAPS. IN THE MEANTIME, DON'T WORRY. WE'LL HONOR OUR COMMITMENTS EITHER BY CONVENTIONAL OR ATOMIC MEANS. THE FACT THAT WE ARE BLEEDING AND DYING IN VIETNAM FOR A MUTUAL CAUSE IS ONLY FURTHER PROOF THAT WE WOULD ALSO DO IT IN EUROPE A LOT CLOSER HOME AND A LOT CLOSER TO OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS.' TO BE UTTERLY FRANK, THAT IS THE WAY WE WISH THE TROOP QUESTION HAD BEEN HANDLED, RATHER THAN WITH REASSURANCES OF A FOURTEEN-DAY EARLY WARNING AND AN AIR LIFT OF A COUPLE OF DIVISIONS."

6. FIELD DISSEM - NONE.

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